

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated September 1, 2004, applicant has amended claims 22 - 42. Claims 1 - 21 were previously cancelled. Claims 22 - 42 are currently pending in the application.

Applicant notes that the claims as originally filed in the preliminary amendment dated 6 August 2003 were numbered as claims 23-43. However, the Examiner has renumbered the claims as 22-42, because there was no claim 22 previously in existence in the application. Applicant has amended all of the claims from the preliminary amendment to reflect the proper numbering, and has amended the dependencies of such claims to be consistent with such renumbering. Thus, for example, previous claim 23 is now claim 22, and previous claim 24, now claim 23, depends from claim 22 after the amendment.

Applicant's claim for priority was objected to as being incorrect. In fact, applicant's claim was incorrect inasmuch as an incorrect, non-related patent was referred to in the claim. The above amendment to the specification corrects this claim of priority.

Applicant has also provided a substitute declaration, consistent with the amended claim as described above, which properly identifies the present application. Applicant therefore believes that all the objections of claims 2-8 of the Office Action are now overcome.

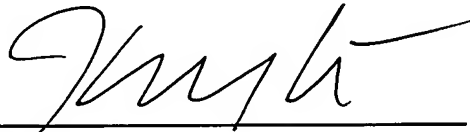
In claim 9 of the Office Action, the antecedent basis of several phrases within the independent claims was objected to. The amendments to claims 22, 29, and 36, (as renumbered) are believed to overcome such rejection by deleting the improper antecedent bases, and correcting the language of the claims.

In paragraph 10 of the Office Action, all claims were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over U.S. Patent 6,592,786. Enclosed is a terminal disclaimer, signed by the appropriate attorney of record, obviating

this rejection.

In view of the above amendments, and submission of the substitute declaration and terminal disclaimer, applicant believes that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicant hereby respectfully requests entry of this amendment and reconsideration and allowance of claims 22 - 42.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Hill', written over a horizontal line.

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